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In a meeting of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Group on June 22, 1959, Mr. Murphy raised the question of the feasibility of agreeing, as part of a negotiated settlement regarding Berlin, to a reduction in the number of the Allied Forces stationed in Berlin.

BERCON D-1 had been distributed before the meeting as a contribution to the discussion.

The principal points which emerged from the discussion are the following:

Although examination of the possibilities of a force reduction must take place without any precise idea of what the Soviets would offer in return, any reduction found to be possible would only take place in exchange for Soviet actions which would assure a satisfactory modus vivendi in Berlin.

The initial approach to the problem is to define the mission of our forces in Berlin and then to determine what the minimum number to carry out this mission would be.

The possible effect of a reduction on the morale of the Berlin population and of the forces themselves is a very important factor.

Suggestions which might be explored include the reduction of the number of intelligence personnel, a reduction of the British and French forces only, and an increase of the para-military forces of the West Berlin policy (Bereitschaftspolizei).

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The stronger the force available in the event of an attack, the longer it would take the attackers to overrun West Berlin and the easier it would be to demonstrate Communist aggression.

The presence of Allied Forces also helps to stabilize the fundamentally dangerous situation in Berlin.

The military aspects of the question will be given further study by Defense and the JCS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

S/S- Mr. R. Miller

Bto:

Mr. Murphy has  
cleared the attached and has  
no objection to distribution  
to participating parties

Bd to

Secret Attachment

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